

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of Study**

In a society, majority of people try to cover their identities than to show who they really are. Although, they try to hide their true behaviors sometimes, their real identity will appear another time unconsciously. The correlation between attitude and social class attract the literary author's attention. Through the characters in the literature works the authors want to tell the readers about their idea and opinion about the condition and situation at that time. They also want to express the natural phenomena lives of the people in their community.

Concerning on the women issues, there are many topic about women that can be arose in news, literary works or even in research. It is interesting talking about women as subject in a literary research. The women's role in a society is really important since they have to keep their children with several activities in their family life. Besides that they also cope with the problems appear and they have to take part in developing their society through educating their children and their society.

The theme about women in the literary works showing that they usually suppose to be the lower social class or powerless than men or even they are placed as victim. Literary work as the creative work of the author usually reflected the issues on real live of a society. The issues are like politic,

economic, and social and culture rose into a literary work. In real live human beings usually faced with several kinds of problems in their society. Those facts become valuable sources to an author to write his idea and actualized himself through his literary works.

Everything which is felt, seen or even read by the writers can be put into literary work by using the author's creative imagination. As Eagleton states literary work was neither a vehicle for ideas, a reflection of social reality nor the incarnation of some transcendental truth: it was a material fact, whose functioning could be analyzed rather as one could examine a machine. It was made of words, not of objects or feelings, and it was a mistake to see it as the expression of an author's mind. (Eagleton, 1996:3).

In line with Eagleton, Wellek and Warren states that literature replects or expresses life and therefore an artist is supposed to express real life in his work. However, it is not the whole of life that a writer expresses in his work. He must concern the specific object such as social, economic, political, and religious condition in his era that ought to be "representative" of his time and society, since historical and social truths are symbols of artistic values in literature. A novel is supposed to be a representation of social problems. By doing so, literature can also be viewed as the essence, the abridgment, and summary of all history (1956: 95).

As the principle of culture, literature consists of a record of values, thought, problem, and conflicts that are transmitted through both written and spoken words. With such acknowledgment, literature stands as the instrument

to pass the experience from the generation to the next. The literature then functions as a representation of the situation. Play is one of the examples of literary works which expresses the writer's thought. Then, through reading drama readers will be able to observe the social condition and background of the drama is produced.

Oscar Wilde in his play *A woman of No Importance* and George Bernard Shaw in his play *Pygmalion* are kind of authors who interested in that kind of situation. Oscar Wilde was born on October 16, 1854 in Dublin, Ireland of an aristocratic family. He was the second son of Sir William and Lady Jane Wilde. Sir William was a famous surgeon, but he embroiled a sensation scandal, raped his former patient in 1864. Then, Jane Wilde was a poet and loved made a sensation like her son. Oscar Wilde spent his early youth in his native country. For three years he attended in Trinity College in Dublin. In 1878 he moved to London and completed his university education at Oxford in classical studies.

He wrote several books after traveling from Italy and Grace. His first book was a volume of poems (1881), and followed his first play *Vera*. But, his first play was not well received, nor his volume of poem. And in 1884, he married and has two children. He also became an editor of *Woman's World*, one of reputable publication.

His some collaboration works such as *The Centerville Ghost* (1887), *The Happy Princes and Other Tales* (1888), *The Point of Mr. W. H.* (1889), *A House of Pomegranates* (1891), *Lord Arthur Seville's Crime* (1891), and

*Intention* (essay, 1891). Then, his important plays include *The Duchess of Padua* (1883), *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1892), *A Florentine Tragedy* (La Sainte Courtisane 1893), *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *Salome* (1894), *An Ideal Husband* (1895), and the last of Wilde's plays to be written, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895). Wilde's plays also have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright are. He died in Paris 30 November 1900.

*A Woman of No Importance* talked about a woman who became a single parent. Mrs. Arbuthnot is the main character in the play that has to send away from the society because of having a son from her affair with upper class man, Lord Illingworth. She has strong motivation opinion showing that she is able to exist in her society. The story begins in Lady Hunstanton invited her friends to her country house. Among them who are invited, there was Hester, a young girl from America. She was not really like with the English custom like English custom that looked everything come from their social status. She had attention on Gerald Arbuthnot, a young man who promoted to be Lord Illingworth's secretary, a promising diplomatic career. But, Lady Caroline told Hester that it was not customary for a young woman to speak with such enthusiasm of any person of the opposite sex. English women concealed their feelings till after they were married. Mrs. Allonby, Lord Illingworth's closed friends that not really like Hester talked about a challenge, asked Lord Illingworth to kiss Hester.

On other side, Lady Hunstanton that heard Gerald being promoted to be Lord Illingworth secretary was very happy and wanted to invite Gerald's mother to have dinner with other's her invited guess. When Mrs. Arbuthnot met with Lord Illingworth, her former lover, there known that Gerald was his son. Mrs. Arbuthnot asked Lord Illingworth to do not bother her son. In other scene knew that Lord Illingworth seduced Hester, Gerald was very angry with him. Then he had been angrier when he knew that Lord Illingworth was his own father.

One day after, at Mrs. Arbuthnot's house Gerald expressed his regret to not become Lord Illingworth secretary, and wanted to send him a letter. In his letter Gerald asked Lord Illingworth to marry his mother. Even Gerald forced his mother to accept but Mrs. Arbuthnot still refused it. When Gerald and Hester went out to walk along at garden, Lord Illingworth came to Mrs. Arbuthnot's house. He said that he got letter from Gerald, then he told his wish to marry Mrs. Arbuthnot. He proposed for Mrs. Arbuthnot to marry him, and begged that he wanted to close to his son. But, Mrs. Arbuthnot refused that proposal and asked to not bother her son, and, the left of Lord Illingworth from that house.

George Bernard Shaw Born on July 26, 1856, in Dublin, Ireland of a a lower-middle class family. His attempts to enter the fiction world came with his first work, *Immaturity* (1879), a semi-autobiographical book that repelled every publisher in London. His next four novels (*The Irrational Knot* (1880), *Love Among Artist* (1881), *Our Corner*; *Cashel Byron's Profession* (1882),

and *An Unsocial Socialist* (1883)) were similarly refused. His final false start in fiction would be *An Unfinished Novel* (1887-88), published posthumously.

Despite his failure as a novelist in the earlier 1880s, Shaw found himself during this decade. He was one of the founders of the Fabian Society (1884 – a middle-class Socialist political organisation that aimed at the transformation of Britain into a socialist state) and became a popular spokesman on behalf of socialism, being the editor of one of the classics of British Socialism *Fabian Essays in Socialism* (1889). He became very much impressed by the work of the dramatist Henrik Ibsen, who wrote plays of social criticism. As a result, Shaw wrote *The Quintessence of Ibsenism* (1891), a pamphlet based on a series of lectures about the progressive Norwegian playwright. In 1925 Shaw got the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Besides, Shaw is known as a critic and satirist, it can be seen from his masterpiece play are: *Arm and the Man* (1894), *The Man of Destiny* (1897), *Fanny's First Play* (1911), *Androcles and the Lion* (1912), and *Bouyant Billions* (1949). Other master pieces are: *You Never' Can Tell* (1900) *Pygmalion* (1912) and *Man and Superman* (1905) is comedy talk about new women, *Robson* (1970:4) states that *Pygmalion* is the finest Shaw's comedy, *Pygmalion* (1912), which has deep roots in his own psychology. According to Gassner (1963: 634) in *Pygmalion* Shaw forced satire on society with comedy of sex. It means that in *Pygmalion* Shaw is using satire and critic to the class in English. It can be seen from the relation of Henry Higgins, the phonetics professor, and his student, Eliza Doolittle. The teacher is from the upper class

and the student is from the lower class, difference between a lady and a flower girl is not how she behaves but how she is treated.

*Pygmalion*, written in 1912 by George Bernard Shaw tells about a woman, Eliza Doolittle, from a lower social class who wants to be a duchess or lady by the experiment of professor phonetic, Henry Higgins. The play was written in the era of Queen Victoria. *Pygmalion* investigates important questions about social class, human behavior, and relations between the sexes. It presents the story of social transformation of a flower girl into a lady through linguistic retraining. Shaw main concern in this play is to demonstrate that someone reflects his or her social strata from how he or she speaks to other people in a society or the importance of language and how he or she wears a cloth. *Pygmalion* opens in Covent Garden, in the middle of rain and cab whistles while several people are waiting for a taxi. Shaw displays inequality among these people in terms of their language. In the beginning of the play, Shaw presents the readers through the characters with a stratified society in which linguistic competence is one of the indicators of social status. It describes the clothing and speech manner; he creates a character named Eliza Doolittle, a flower girl, who is not at all attractive person. A part from her appearance, Eliza's manner of speaking also illustrated that her class and social status is different from that of other ladies and gentlemen in the play such as Henry Higgins and Colonel Pickering.

The play tells that by the effort of Eliza Doolittle, the main character, with help of professor phonetic, Henry Higgins, transforms her from a lower social class girl into lady. Therefore, she becomes acceptable and able to behave, to perform and to speak in her new society.

According to the researcher *Pygmalion* and *A Woman of No Importance* play are interesting plays which are consists social aspect and the feminist aspect. Those aspects motivates to the writer to analyze this play. The researcher is interested in analyzing those aspects; social and feminist aspects.

## **B. Problem Statement**

The major focus of the study is to reveal “How the portrait of women in George Bernard Shaw’s *Pygmalion* and Oscar Wilde’s *A Woman of No Importance*”. The sub focuses of the study are as follows;

1. How the women social class structure is portrayed in the Oscar Wilde’s *A Woman of No Importance* and George Bernard Shaw’s *Pygmalion*?
2. How the struggles of the women are reflected in the Oscar Wilde’s *A Woman of No Importance* and George Bernard Shaw’s *Pygmalion*?

## **C. Research Limitation**

To limit the subject matter and to avoid complexity in this research, the researcher focuses his discussion on the sociology perspective and theory of feminism, based on feminist perspective.



To intensify the analysis, the focus of analysis was on the main characters in the plays. Other characters are also included as far as they have contribution to the research.

#### **D. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To describe the class structure of the women characters in the Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance* and George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* based on sociological perspective.
2. To describe the struggle of the women in the Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance* and George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* based on feminist perspective.

#### **E. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study are:

1. Practical Benefit

To give contribution, understanding and intensification to the readers about the significance of the plays in highlighting feminism and connecting the sociology of literature.

2. Practical Benefit

To give additional information, that can be used the next researchers who are interested in analyzing the plays to find certain issues such as politic, economic, social and other national or international policies.

## F. Research Method

In writing the research paper draws on qualitative research or secondary research in which the sources are based on the plays texts of Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance* and George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*.

### 1. Type of the Research

The writer uses narrative research to analyze the plays besides books and other related references to support the subject matter. Based on the book written by John W Cresswell (2007), *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design Choosing Among Five Approaches*, is on a kind of qualitative in which the researcher describes the lives of individuals, collect and tell stories about people's lives, and write narratives of individual experiences.

### 2. Object of the Research

The object objects of the study are the plays *A Woman of No Importance* written by Oscar Wilde and *Pygmalion* written by George Bernard Shaw.

### 3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In this study, the researcher will use two kinds of data sources. They are primary and second data.

- a. The primary data source of the study is the text of play *A Woman of No Importance* written by Oscar Wilde and *Pygmalion* written by George Bernard Shaw. The main data involve the intrinsic elements in the

novel and its film adaptation which are relevant to the subject matter this research.

- b. Secondary data source supporting data are taken from other sources such as books of literature, the author's biography, essays, comments, articles historical information, criticism and other relevant information. The data are meant to see the relevance of the plays from the point of its sociology of literature.

#### 4. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collection is done through documentation of library research. The documentation based on John W Creswell (1994:118) is a kind of data, collection which uses all of the data sources, the primary and secondary data analyze. There are some steps used by the writer to do it, as follows:

- a. Collecting the data from the purposely sampling, the play *Pygmalion* and *A Woman of No Importance*.
- b. Recording the information by noting down all passages needed,
- c. Resolving field issues
- d. Storing the data
- e. Locating the themes being analyzed
- f. Gaining access and making rapport.

#### 5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The steps used by the writer are as the general data analysis Strategies used by Huberman and Miles (1994) as follows:

- a. collecting the data sources by reading the play
- b. recording the information by taking notes, writing reflective passages in notes
- c. summarizing field notes by drafting a summary sheet on the field notes. The fields are feminism and sociology of literature
- d. making metaphors (figure of speech) by observing the figure of speech used in plays script or dialogues
- e. identifying important data by writing codes and memos
- f. noting patterns and themes
- g. counting frequency of codes
- h. building a logical chain of evidence by noting relations among variables,
- i. displaying the data by making contrast and comparisons

## **G. Thesis Organization**

This thesis organization consists of six chapters. Chapter one is the introduction that consists of background, problem statement, literature review, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, limitation of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter two is underlying theory. The third chapter deals with the social historical background of England in Victorian period, Oscar Wilde social background and George Bernard Shaw social background. The fourth chapter is class structure of the women characters are reflected in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman Of No Importance* and George Bernard

Shaw's *Pygmalion*. The fifth chapter presents the struggles of Women are reflected in the Oscar Wilde's *a Woman of No Importance* and George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, and the last chapter, chapter six is conclusion and suggestion.